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one or more of said plurality of pieces of content information selected by said selection section, converts said logical address into a physical address of said first storage medium or said second storage medium and accesses said first storage medium or said second storage medium based on said physical address.

As
Concl.
--49. (Amended) The communication system according to claim 43, wherein said first storage medium is a hard disk and said third storage medium is a semiconductor memory.

--50. (Amended) The communication system according to claim 43, wherein said information is digital audio data.

--51. (Amended) The communication system according to claim 50, wherein said digital audio data is compressed data.

--52. (Amended) The communication system according to claim 51, wherein said digital audio data is data compressed in an ATRAC format.--

REMARKS

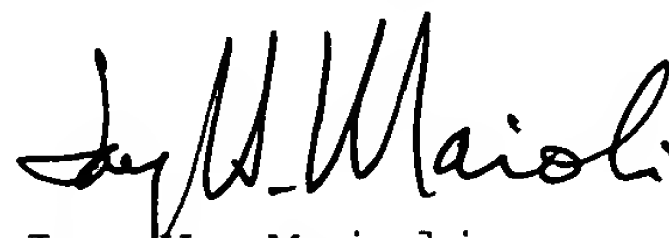
Claims 1-52 remain in the application and have been amended hereby.

As will be noted from the Declaration, Applicants are citizens and residents of Japan and this application originated there.

Accordingly, the amendments to the specification are made to place the application in idiomatic English, and the claims are amended to place them in better condition for examination.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

--A communication system includes a first storage section for storing [a plurality of] pieces of [contents] content information, a second storage section for also storing [a plurality of] pieces of [contents] content information, a control section for accessing the [contents] content information stored in the first storage section and the second storage section based on a single set of management information for managing the [contents] content information stored in the first storage section and the second storage section, a communication section for interconnecting the first storage section, the second storage section and the control section for communication, and an [accounting] account setting section for setting an amount of [money] a fee to be imposed on a predetermined user in response to use of the first storage section or the second storage section.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-52 have been amended as follows:

--1. (Amended) A communication system, comprising:
first storage means for storing a plurality of pieces of

[contents] content information;

second storage means for storing a plurality of pieces of [contents] content information;

control means for accessing [the contents] said content information stored in said first storage means and said second storage means based on a single set of management information for managing [the contents] said content information stored in said first storage means and said second storage means;

communication means for interconnecting said first storage means, said second storage means, and said control means for communication; and

accounting setting means for setting an amount of [money] a fee to be imposed on a predetermined user in response to use of said first storage means or said second storage means.

--2. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 1, wherein said control means accesses [the contents] said content information stored at a predetermined physical address of each of said first storage means and said second storage means based on [the] said single set of management information described with a logical address corresponding to [the] said physical address.

--3. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 2, further comprising selection means for selecting at least one of [the] said plurality of pieces of [contents] content information stored in said second storage means, [and]

wherein said control means controls so that [at least] one or more of [the] said plurality of pieces of [contents] content information selected by said selection means may be copied or moved from said second storage means to said first storage means through said communication means.

--4. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 3, wherein said control means searches for a logical address of [the] said management information corresponding to [the at least one] said one or more of [the] said plurality of pieces of [contents] content information selected by said selection means, converts [the] said logical address into a physical address of said second storage means and accesses said second storage means based on [the] said physical address.

--5. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 3, further comprising erasure means for erasing [at least] one or more of [the] said plurality of pieces of [contents] content information stored in said first storage means, [and] wherein [said accounting setting means does not set, when,] where a contents ID of [the contents] said content information erased by said erasure means is managed with [the] said management information, [the contents] when said information corresponding to [the] said contents ID is again transferred from said second storage means to said first storage means [again] by said control means[, an] said

accounting setting means does not set said amount of [money]
said fee to be imposed on [a] said user who has issued a
request for [the] said transfer.

--6. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to
claim 3, further comprising erasure means for erasing [at
least] one [of the] or more said pieces of said plurality of
pieces of [contents] content information stored in said first
storage means, [and] wherein [said accounting setting means
sets, when,] where a contents ID of the contents information
erased by said erasure means is managed with the management
information, [the contents] when said content information
corresponding to [the] said contents ID is again transferred
from said second storage means to said first storage means
[again] by said control means[,]said accounting setting means
sets a smaller amount of [money] said fee to be imposed on [a]
said user who has issued a request for [the] said transfer
than a normal [charge] fee.

--7. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to
claim 1, wherein said accounting setting means sets [an] said
amount of [money] said fee to be imposed on [a] said user in
accordance with a capacity of use of said second storage means
by [the] said user.

--8. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to
claim 7, further comprising setting means for setting [a] said

capacity of use for said second storage means, [and] wherein said accounting setting means sets [the] said amount of [money] said fee to be imposed on [the] said user in accordance with [the] said capacity of use of [the] said user set by said setting means.

--9. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 8, wherein said setting means adaptively sets [the] said capacity of use used by [the] said user based on [the] said management information for managing said second storage means, and said accounting setting means sets [the] said amount of [money] said fee to be imposed on [the] said user in accordance with [the] said capacity of use of [the] said user set by said setting means.

--10. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 7, wherein said accounting setting means stores [the] said amount of [money] said fee to be imposed on [the] said user in accordance with [the] said capacity of use of said second storage means by [the] said user [into] in a database [stored] for each said user in said second storage means.

--11. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 10, wherein said control means controls [so] such that [at least the] said imposed amount of [money] said fee stored for each said user in said database and [an] a user ID of [the] said user are transmitted to an external settlement

center.

--12. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 1, further comprising authentication means for verifying [an] access to said second storage means by said control means.

--13. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 12, wherein said second storage means stores a plurality of said user IDs, and said authentication means compares [the] said user ID with which said second storage means is accessed and [the] said plurality of said user IDs to authenticate [the] said user who has accessed said second storage means.

--14. (Amended) A communication method, comprising the steps of:

accessing contents information stored in first storage means and second storage means based on a single set of management information for managing [the contents] said content information stored in said first storage means and said second storage means; and

setting an amount of [money] a fee to be imposed on a user of said first storage means or said second storage means in response to a capacity of use of said first storage means or said second storage means by [the] said user.

--15. (Amended) A distribution apparatus, comprising:
storage means for storing a plurality of pieces of
[contents] content information;

communication means for connecting said distribution
apparatus for communication to an external apparatus; and

control means for accessing [the] said contents
information stored in said storage means based on management
information for managing [the] said contents information
stored in said storage means in response to a user request by
a user from [the] said external apparatus[;].

wherein said control means produces management
information for each said user in response to [an] access to
[the contents] said content information in accordance with
[the] said user request and stores [the] said produced
management information into said storage means, [the] said
management information including at least an ID of [the] said
user and an address representative of a storage location of
[the contents] said content information stored in said storage
means.

--16. (Amended) [A] The distribution apparatus according
to claim 15, further comprising accounting setting means for
setting an amount of [money] a fee to be imposed on [a] said
user who requests [for] use of said storage means from [the]
said external apparatus in response to a capacity of use of
said storage means by [the] said user.

--17. (Amended) [A] The distribution apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said control means accesses [the] said contents information stored at a predetermined physical address of said storage means based on [the] said management information described with a logical address corresponding to [the] said physical address.

--18. (Amended) [A] The distribution apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said control means controls [so] such that [at least] one or more of [the] said plurality of pieces of [contents] said content information selected by [the] said user by [means of selection means of the] using said external apparatus may be copied or moved from said storage means to [the] said external apparatus through said communication means.

--19. (Amended) [A] The distribution apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said control means searches for a logical address of [the] said management information corresponding to [the at least] said one or more of [the] said plurality of pieces of [contents] content information selected by [the] said selection means, converts [the] said logical address into a physical address of said storage means, and accesses said storage means based on [the] said physical address.

--20. (Amended) [A] The distribution apparatus according to claim 18, wherein[,] when contents information stored in

[the] said external apparatus is erased and [the contents] said content ID is managed with [the] said management information[, said accounting setting means does not set,] and when [the contents] said content information corresponding to [the contents] said content ID is transferred from said storage means to [the] said external apparatus again by said control means, [an] said accounting setting means does not set said amount of [money] said fee to be imposed on [a] said user who has issued [a] said request for [the] said transfer.

--21. (Amended) [A] The distribution apparatus according to claim 18, wherein[, when [contents] said content information stored in [the] said external apparatus is erased and [the contents] said content ID is managed with [the] said management information[, said accounting setting means sets,] and when [the contents] said content information corresponding to [the contents] said content ID is transferred from said storage means to [the] said external apparatus again by said control means, said accounting setting means sets a smaller than a predetermined amount of [money] said fee to be imposed on [a] said user who has issued [a] said request for [the] said transfer [than a normal charge].

--22. (Amended) [A] The distribution apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said accounting setting means sets [an] said amount of [money] said fee to be imposed on [a] said user in accordance with a capacity of use of said storage means by

[the] said user.

--23. (Amended) [A] The distribution apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising setting means for setting [a] said capacity of use for said storage means, [and] wherein said accounting setting means sets [the] said amount of [money] said fee to be imposed on [the] said user in accordance with [the] said capacity of use of [the] said user set by said setting means.

--24. (Amended) [A] The distribution apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said setting means adaptively sets [the] said capacity of use used by [the] said user based on [the] said management information for managing said storage means, and said accounting setting means sets [the] said amount of [money] said fee to be imposed on [the] said user in accordance with [the] said capacity of use of [the] said user set by said setting means.

--25. (Amended) [A] The distribution apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said accounting setting means stores [the] said amount of [money] said fee to be imposed on [the] said user in accordance with [the] said capacity of use of said storage means by [the] said user [into] in a database [stored] for each said user in said storage means.

--26. (Amended) [A] The distribution apparatus according

to claim 25, wherein said control means controls [so] such that [at least the] said imposed amount of [money] said fee stored for each said user in said database and an ID of [the] said user are transmitted to an external settlement center.

--27. (Amended) [A] The distribution apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising authentication means for verifying an access to said storage means by said control means.

--28. (Amended) [A] The distribution apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said storage means stores a plurality of user IDs, and said authentication means compares [the] said user IDs with which said storage means is accessed and [the] said plurality of user IDs to authenticate [the] said user who has accessed said storage means.

--29. (Amended) A distribution method for distributing desired [contents] content information in response to a user request, comprising the steps of:

accessing [the contents] said content information stored in storage means based on management information for managing [the contents] said content information stored in said storage means in response to [a] said user request from an external apparatus;

producing management information for each said user in response to [the] said access to [the contents] said content

information; and

transmitting [the] said accessed [contents] content information to [the] said external apparatus[;],

wherein [the] said management information includes [at least] an ID of [the] said user and an address representative of a storage location of [the contents] said information stored in said storage means.

--30. (Amended) A terminal apparatus for receiving [contents] content information from a distribution apparatus, comprising:

storage means for storing a plurality of pieces of [contents] said content information;

communication means for receiving a plurality of [contents] content IDs stored in [the] said distribution apparatus from [the] said distribution apparatus and transmitting at least one [contents] said content ID to [the] said distribution apparatus in response to a user request; and

control means for controlling said communication means to transmit said at least one [contents] content ID to [the] said distribution apparatus in response to [a] said user request and storing addresses corresponding to [the contents] said content IDs received from [the] said distribution apparatus into said storage means[;],

wherein said control means controls said communication means to transmit [the] said addresses stored in said storage means to [the] said distribution apparatus when said terminal

apparatus requests [the distribution apparatus for contents] said content information corresponding to [the contents] said content ID from said distribution apparatus.

--31. (Amended) [A] The terminal apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said control means stores a logical address corresponding to a predetermined physical address of a storage medium provided in [the] said distribution apparatus at which [contents] said content information received in response to [the] said user request by said communication means is stored into said storage means.

--32. (Amended) [A] The terminal apparatus according to claim 31, wherein [the] said logical address is included in a piece of management information which is used commonly by [the] said distribution apparatus and said terminal apparatus.

--33. (Amended) [A] The terminal apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said control means extracts [a] said logical address included in [the] said management information corresponding to [at least one contents] content ID in response to [the] said user request, and transmits [the] said logical address to [the] said distribution apparatus.

--34. (Amended) [A] The terminal apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising selection means for selecting [at least] one of said content IDs of [the] said plurality of

[contents] content IDs received by said communication means, [and] wherein said control means controls said communication means to transmit [the at least one contents] said content ID selected by said selection means to [the] said distribution apparatus.

--35. (Amended) A communication method for receiving [contents] content information from a distribution apparatus, comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of [contents] content IDs stored in [the] said distribution apparatus from [the] said distribution apparatus;

transmitting [at least] one [contents ID] or more content IDs to [the] said distribution apparatus in response to a user request;

storing addresses corresponding to [the contents] said one or more content IDs received from [the] said distribution apparatus into storage means; and

transmitting [the] said addresses stored in said storage means to [the] said distribution apparatus when a request to re-send [the contents] said content information corresponding to any of [the] said contents IDs is issued.

--36. (Amended) A communication system, comprising:

a terminal apparatus including first storage means for storing a plurality of pieces of [contents] content information;

a distribution apparatus including second storage means for storing [a] said plurality of pieces of [contents] said content information;

communication means for interconnecting said terminal apparatus and said distribution apparatus;

storage control means for placing a [contents] content ID stored in said second storage means into [right] purchase information managed for each said terminal apparatus and stored in said second storage means in response to a request from said terminal apparatus;

access control means for controlling [accessing] access to [contents] said content information corresponding to [the contents] said content ID stored in said second storage means in response to [the right] said purchase information; and

accounting setting means for setting an amount of [money] a fee to be imposed on said terminal apparatus in response to [the right] said purchase information.

--37. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 36, wherein said access control means permits [accessing] access to [the contents] said content information corresponding to [the contents] said content ID stored in said second storage means when [the contents] said content ID is included in [the right] said purchase information.

--38. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 36, wherein said accounting setting means does not

set[,] said amount of said fee to be imposed on said terminal apparatus when[, where a contents] said content ID is placed in [the right] said purchase information[, the contents] and said content information corresponding to [the contents] said content ID stored in said second storage means is accessed by said access control means[, an amount of money to be imposed on said terminal apparatus].

--39. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 36, wherein said storage control means stores access history information into said second storage means in response to [accessing] access to [the contents] said content information by said access control means, and said accounting setting means sets [an] said amount of [money] said fee to be imposed on said terminal apparatus based on [the] said access history information.

--40. (Amended) [A] The communication system according to claim 36, wherein said distribution apparatus includes said storage control means.

--41. (Amended) A communication method for communication between a distribution apparatus and a terminal apparatus, comprising the steps of:

placing a [contents] content ID stored in storage means of said distribution apparatus into [right] purchase information managed for each said terminal apparatus and

stored in said storage means of said distribution apparatus in response to a request from said terminal apparatus;

controlling [accessing] access to [contents] information corresponding to [the contents] said content ID stored in said storage means of said distribution apparatus in response to [the right] said purchase information;

transmitting [the] said contents information from said distribution apparatus to said terminal apparatus in response to [the accessing] said access; and

setting an amount of [money] a fee to be imposed on said terminal apparatus in response to [the right] said purchase information.

--42. (Amended) A distribution apparatus connected for communication to a terminal apparatus, comprising:

storage means for storing a plurality of pieces of [contents] content information;

storage control means for placing a [contents] content ID stored in said storage means into [right] purchase information managed for each said terminal apparatus and stored in said storage means in response to a request from said terminal apparatus;

access control means for controlling [accessing] access to [contents] said content information corresponding to [the contents] said ID stored in said storage means in response to [the right] said purchase information; and

accounting setting means for setting an amount of [money]